REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

The title of the invention has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in Claim 2 is noted with appreciation.

Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form with minor revisions to address the outstanding claim objection and to clarify the subject matter incorporated from Claim 1. Claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer in order that Claim 2 may be passed promptly to issue. The cancellation of Claim 1 should not be construed as an acquiescence to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Claim 3, which has been added to provide more comprehensive protection for Applicants' invention, is a non-means claim based generally on Claim 2. Claim 3 is allowable for similar reasons as Claim 2.

Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 (XA-10230) any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any

extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been separately requested, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Reg. No. 31,568

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August 30, 2006

MWS:skw

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on August 30, 2006.